

## Message Text

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17

ACTION CU-03

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 PA-01 USIA-06 /021 W

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R 220800Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY DACCA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8168

AMCONSUL BOMBAY

INFO AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: OTRA BG

SUBJ: PROPOSED PENNSYLVANIA BI-CENTENNIAL PROJECT FOR BD

### SUMMARY

EMBASSY OFFICER HAS BEEN APPROACHED BY MRS. FARIDA TAHMAN, MP, AND TITULAR PRESIDENT OF SELF-STYLED BANGLADESH-U.S. FRIENDSHIP SOCIETY, ON WHAT APPEARS TO BE A RATHER STARTLING PROJECT REPUTEDLY ASSOCIATED WITH BI-CENNTENNIAL COMMISSION OF PENNSYLVANIA. EMBASSY REQUESTS DEPARTMENT AND AMCON BOMBAY DEVELOP APPROPRIATE BACKGROUND INFO AND ADVISE ASAP.

1. MRS. RAHMAN WAS CONTACTED BY LETTER AND SUBSEQUENT PERSONAL VISIT EARLIER IN YEAR BY ONE P.B. BHAVNANI, DIRECTOR, SOUTH ASIAN DIVISION, WORLD UNITED, INC., 6 PANCHSHILA, C. RD., CHURCHGATE, BOMBAY, 400-021, TEL: 296855. BHAVNANI STATED HE AUTHORIZED TO NOMINATE A BANGLADESH COORDINATOR FOR PROJECT TO SELECT 40 BANALEE FAMILIES TO PARTICIPATE IN A THREE-WEEK VISIT TO U.S. HIS BRACHURE HEADED QTE WANT A HOLIDAY IN U.S.A.? UNQTE SAYS ONLY QUALIFYING STANDARD FOR PROSPECTIVE PARTICIPANTS IS QTE BELIEF IN OVE, UNITY AND PEACE UNQTE. ONE-THOUSAND FAMILIES FROM OVER 100 NATIONS WILL BE INVOLVED (100 FAMILIESFROM INDIA ALONE). ALL STATESIDE TRAVEL, ROOM AND BOARD FREE. EACH FAMILY WILL RECIEVE A MEDALLION AND TRANSISTOR RADIO AS PARTING GIFT.

2. FOLLOW-UP CORRESPONDENCE FROM A MARY ANN ROTH, IDENTIFIED  
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ON ONE LETTER AS COORDINATOR, LATCHSTRKNG 1976, WORLD UNITED,

INC., VALLEY FORGE PLAZA, 1150 FIRST AVENUE, SUITE 420,  
KING OF PRUSSIA, PA., 19406, AND ON ANOTHER LETTER AS  
ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, CONGRESS OF WORLD UNITY, 1500  
LOCUST STREET, SUIT P 318, PHILADELPHIA, PA., 19102, TEL.  
(215) LO-1-1976, CONFIRMS OFFER OF FORTY FAMILY INVITATIONS  
TO BANGLADESH AND URGES HASTE IN SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS.  
BI-CENTENNIAL COMMISSION OF PENNSYLVANIA IS NAMED AS  
SPONSOR OF CONGRESS OF WORLD UNITY.

3. ONE OF MS. ROTH'S LETTERS STATES A MR. MURPHY FROM THE U.S.  
NOW IN SOUTH EAST ASIA WILL BE CONTACTING MRS. RAHMAN ON  
THE PROBLEM RAISED BY THE INABILITY OF BANGALEE INVITEES TO  
OBTAIN FOREIGN EXCHANGE TO PAY FOR THEIR AIR PASSAGE TO AND  
FROM PHILADELPHIA AND FOR POCKET MONEY WHILE IN U.S.

4. AS SITUATION NOW DEVELOPING MRS. RAHMAN IS GETTING A LITTLE  
NERVOUS ABOUT THIS INVOLVEMENT AND SAID THE 26 FAMILIES WHOSE  
APPLICATION FORMS SHE HAS ALREADY FORWARDED ARE GETTING  
EXCITING ABOUT THIS U.S. HOLIDAY AND PRESSURING HER FOR  
ASSURANCES THAT FOREIGN EXCHANGE PROBLEM WILL BE SOLVED,  
THAT THE PROJECT IS ON THE ROAD, ETC. IN VIEW OF THE DUBIOUSLY  
PRESENTED BACKGROUND WE CAN ENVISION AWKWARD, UNAVOIDABLE,  
AND TIME-CONSUMING DEMANDS ON THIS MISSION, E.G., VISAS,  
PR PROBLEMS, ETC. UNLESS THIS PROJECT IS NOT ONLY REPUTABLE BUT  
PRACTICAL, WELL-FINANCED, AND WELL-ORGANIZED IN U.S.

5. PREVIOUS INQUIRY SENT TO BOMBAY (DACCA 2786-C JUNE 6, 1975)  
REQUESTING INFORMATION ON BHAVNANI HAS NEVER BEEN ANSWERED.

6. IF THIS IS SOMETHING TO BE NIPPED IN THE BUD, THE SOONER WE  
HAVE NIPPING INFORMATION THE BETTER. PLEASE ADVISE.  
BOSTER

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 22 SEP 1975  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** KelleyW0  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
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**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Film Number:** D750327-0807  
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**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** PROPOSED PENNSYLVANIA BI-CENTENNIAL PROJECT FOR BD SUMMARY  
**TAGS:** OTRA, BG  
**To:** STATE BOMBAY  
**Type:** TE  
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